Jharsuguda Airport

†*56. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the repeated demand to operationalise the old airport of second World War period located at Jharsuguda in Orissa;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the facilities to make Jharsuguda a commercially successful airport are available;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has taken some steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be operationalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Jharsuguda Airport in Orissa is a Non-operational airport.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal for development and operationalization of Jharsuguda Airport. In accordance with the recommendations of Feasibility Study submitted by M/s. RITES, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to develop this airport initially for ATR type of aircraft operations. However, action for further development of this airport will be considered after additional land measuring 815 acres is made available as per the Master Plan by the State Government of Orissa to AAI free of cost & free from all encumbrances.

BPL Households in the country

*57. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT is pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Below Poverty Line(BPL) households as on 1st January, 2008;

(b) how his Ministry had arrived at this figure;

(c) whether there is any proposal for New Survey to prepare correct list of BPL families; and

(d) if so, the details regarding BPL categorization in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line (BPL) at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee). The latest estimates of the percentage and number of persons living below the poverty line is available for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

year 2004-05 based on the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round of NSS. These estimates are made based on persons and not households. As such, the total number of BPL households as on 1st January 2008 is not available. As per the latest estimate, available for the year 2004-05 based on the large sample survey of consumer expenditure data of the 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005) of the NSSO, 30.17 crore persons (27.5% of the total population) lived below the poverty line.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development conducts the BPL Census generally in the beginning of a Five Year Plan to identify the BPL households in the rural areas who could be targeted under its various programmes. Last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. For the next BPL Census, an Expert Group to recommend the suitable methodology to identify the BPL families in the rural areas has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development in August, 2008.

Under Swaran Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) of Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, house-to-house survey is carried out by the States/Union Territories for the identification of genuine beneficiaries of the scheme among the urban population on the basis of certain economic and non-economic parameters. The States/UTs are requested from time to time to carry out such BPL Survey on the basis of the revised/updated State Specific Poverty Lines released by the Planning Commission.

Environment clearance for infrastructure projects

*58. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Ministry of Finance panel has recommended that infrastructure projects should be subjected to simpler environmental clearance rules;

(b) if so, whether under Environment Impact Assessment (E1A) Notification, projects need to get numerous clearances under sections 3,6 and 25 of the Environment (Projection) Act, 1986;

(c) if so, whether the panel had suggested that industrial/infrastructure projects should be allowed to bypass these provisions and that EIA Notification should be comprehensive enough to cover all other rules and regulations; and

(d) if so, what are the other suggestions made by the panel and to what extent they have been approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Expert Group constituted in the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has recommended that the environment clearance prescribed for industrial / infrastructural projects under the terms of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006 should be made comprehensive enough to cover the requirements of multiple rules formulated under various sections of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.